A91 R

DOCUMENT PROFILE SHEET

X U ____ EXDIS
____ LOU ____ NODIS
____ C ____ CODEWORD
____ S
____ TS

LOG NO: 820346
S/S NO: ____
OTHER NO: ____
REC'D: 1/26/82

FROM: Sen. David Pryor TO: Thomas O. Enders DATE: 1/22

SUBJECT: Letter from Dr. Snyder re reported incident in El Salvador in which a large number of civilians were said to have been killed

DISTRIBUTION

OFF	ACT	COORD	INFO	OFF	ACT	COORD	INFO	OFF	ACT	COORD	INFO
AS			X	AND				PPC			
DAS-1			X	BR							
DAS-2			X	CAR				PRESS			
SPEC. AD.				CEN	X			ECP			
EX. ASST.				CCA				RPP.			
CONG.				MEX							
STAFF				PAN							
EX				SC				USOAS			

ACTION REQUESTED

X Draft reply for H signature
____ Draft memo to ____ for signature by ____
____ Appropriate handling
____ Approve/clear
____ Direct reply (Copy for ARA/S requested)
____ Other (Specify): ____

Note: If action is transferred to an office outside of ARA, note the transfer on this profile sheet and return to ARA/Staff. If transferred within ARA, notify ARA/Staff.

DUE DATE: 1/29

ACTION TAKEN

DATE	FROM	TO	ACTION REQUIRED
1/27	ARA	CEN	Original sent to PRM for review.
1/26	ARA	CEN	RB
2/4	CEN	ARA	
2/4	ARA	EB	Clear
2/11	ARA	OES	Correction page 2
2/16	CEN	ARA	
2/17	ARA	EB	Clear

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY R. Valas DATE 10/14/82
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE ____
TS AUTH. ____ REASON(S) ____
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☐ RELEASABLE ☒
DECLASSIFICATION DENIED ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS ____ REMARKS ____

DATE 2/23 FILED ✓

82-0346
2/23 to H (Crew

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington D.C. 20520

Dear Senator Pryor:

Thank you for your letter of January 22 to Assistant Secretary Enders enclosing correspondence from your constituent, Dr. Victor Snyder of Little Rock, who inquired about the alleged atrocities at Mozote, El Salvador.

Our Embassy in San Salvador has made a determined effort to look into reports of a massacre of civilians at the small town of El Mozote last December. While Embassy personnel have not visited El Mozote, because it is once again in guerrilla hands, they have visited neighboring communities and interviewed a wide variety of sources, including refugees from El Mozote, who said they witnessed the events of December 11. The Embassy is continuing its investigation of the incident but what we know as of now is as follows:

-- At the time of the incident there were no more than 300 inhabitants in El Mozote.

-- The guerrillas occupying El Mozote had known of impending government operations in the area since at least November 15. They had mobilized their forces, including civilian supporters, to harass government troops while other elements withdrew from the vicinity.

-- Both guerrillas and civilians were present when government forces appproached El Mozote. The guerrillas resisted and fighting lasted about four hours. The town was partially destroyed.

-- Under the circumstances any civilians remaining in town could have been injured or killed and there is little doubt that some civilians were in fact killed. It is not possible, however, to prove or disapprove that excesses against the civilian population occurred. No evidence has yet been found to confirm that government forces systematically massacred civilians.

-- On the other hand, it is clear that the guerrilla forces defending El Mozote did nothing to remove civilians from the path of the battle they knew was coming and had prepared for.

The Honorable
David Pryor,
United States Senate.

-- It is also clear that the guerrillas have grossly inflated the number of civilian deaths for propaganda purposes. Their radio issued its first report of the alleged incident on December 27, more than two weeks after the sweep occurred, claiming that 192 non-combatants had died in El Mozote. On January 2, it increased the figure to 472. On January 27, press reports in the US raised the figure to 700 killed "in and around" El Mozote. Since our interviews in the area indicate that there were no more than 300 inhabitants in the entire canton in which El Mozote is located, these figures would appear to be highly exaggerated.

-- Subsequently, the guerrillas have circulated lists of "victims" of the alleged massacre. These names may well be extracted from the civil registries stolen from the nearby town of Jocoatique when guerrillas occupied it, killing in the process four national guardsmen and 27 others, including the family members of civil defense personnel.

Sincerely,

Powell A. Moore
Assistant Secretary for
Congressional Relations

Enclosure:

Correspondence Returned.

Drafted:ARA/CEN:CPavlovski
Ext. 20552 2/13/82

Cleared: ARA/CEN:RWyrough
ARA/C:ECoolidge
H:SBartlett

FAIM: 120359; ARA: 820346
Disc: GenCorres; Subj: Pryor

Duplicate SB file

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DUE DATE: 1/29

ACTION TAKEN

DATE	FROM	TO	ACTION REQUIRED
1/27	DAS-1	CEN	We should give this priority treatment.

CEN
We should give this priority treatment.
Tom
SB

DISPOSITION

DATE	FILED	REMARKS

DAVID PRYOR
ARKANSAS

248 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510
(202) 224-2353

ARKANSAS OFFICE:
3030 FEDERAL BUILDING
LITTLE ROCK ARKANSAS 72201
(501) 378-6336

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING
SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

January 22, 1982

The Honorable Thomas O. Enders
Assistant Secretary of State
for Inter-American Affairs
Department of State
Washington, D. C. 20520

Dear Ambassador Enders:

I am enclosing a letter I have just received from Dr. Snyder conveying details of a reported incident in El Salvador in which a large number of civilians were said to have been killed.

I would appreciate it if you could pursue this issue with our Embassy in San Salvador to determine its validity.

I have advised Dr. Snyder that I have referred the matter to you and would appreciate any information you can provide which I can pass along to him.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

David Pryor

DP/gmj
Enclosure

University of
Arkansas
for Medical
Sciences

College of Medicine

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY
AND COMMUNITY MEDICINE

1700 [illegible] Street
Little Rock, Arkansas
72202
501-375-2171
375-1116

January 11, 1982

Senator David Pryor
248 Russell Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Pryor:

It was my privilege during the last days of December to replace an ill French physician working in the El Salvadorean Refugee Camp near Collomancaugua, Honduras. For a brief period, two Arkansan medical students and I were the only physicians for a camp of 6,000 and also for the nearby native Honduran population of approximately 2,000. Although we would be most willing to provide you or your staff with what current observations we have regarding those camps, I write with great concern on an incident often discussed in the camps by both refugees and relief workers; if this incident did occur, to my knowledge it would be the ugliest such occurrence to come out of the El Salvador Civil War.

This event, reported by both the opposition radio and refugees with whom we talked, is described as follows: sometime during the third week of December, 1981, El Salvadorean troops massacred approximately 1,000 men, women, and children near the village of Mosote, El Salvador. All animals were also killed. The bodies were not buried. The opposition radio also mentioned that the forces were directed by "U.S. advisors". Apparently some El Salvadorean voices called for an international investigation; but no such investigation occurred.

If true, such action by a government which [illegible]e enthusiastically supplying with arms warrants thorough investigation. Today's Gazette reports the initial arrival in this country of El Salvadorean troops for training by U.S. forces; this ever-tightening military alliance mandates the most thorough review of alleged atrocity, particularly one of such scale.

I am writing to you requesting that an appropriate investigation be rapidly undertaken; corroboration and international attention would perhaps prevent repeat incidents and would certainly necessitate reappraisal of our military relationship. I have discussed this incident with a group of concerned Little Rock residents, and we are most hopeful you will see that such investigation occurs: your past good work and thoughtful policy statements have not gone unnoticed.

I would be willing to discuss this incident with you or your staff, should that be of value to you. I appreciate your attention.

Sincerely,

Victor Snyder, M.D.

VS/ca